AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the permitting access includes permitting access to multiple media files.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein said generating a first hash at a third time further comprises setting the first hash to a value indicating that access is to be denied if the first and the second authorization tickets do not match, thereby indicating attempted unauthorized access ~~and wherein the first hash has a value that indicates that access is to be denied~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein a first server generates the first hash and a second server permits the user access, the first server being different than the second server.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein a first server determines whether the first and second authorization tickets match, and a second server permits the user access, the first server being different than the second server.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method for controlling access to a media file, the method comprising: ~~of claim 1~~
generating a first authorization ticket at a first time in response to a request to access the media file from a user;
generating a second authorization ticket at a second time;
determining whether the first and the second authorization tickets match thereby determining whether the user is authorized to access the media file;

generating a first hash at a third time, the first hash based upon the determining whether the authorization tickets match and upon data;

generating a second hash at a fourth time, the second hash based upon the data;

determining whether the first hash and the second hash match, wherein a match of the first and second hashes indicates the user as having been authorized; and

permitting the user access to the media file if the first and second hashes match;

wherein:

the first authorization ticket is generated on a web server;

the second authorization ticket is generated and the determination whether the first and the second authorization tickets match are performed on a global cache server;

the first hash is generated on a playlist server; and

the generating of the second hash, the determining whether the first hash and the second hash match, and the permitting the user access to the media file are all performed on a media server.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the request is received from a user's computer and wherein the data is a cookie on the user's computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the data is a randomly generated string.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the data is a null value.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the data is a date.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the date is a future date.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the date is the present date.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the date is a past date.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 further comprising:
generating a third authorization ticket at the second time; and
comparing the first authorization ticket to each of the second and the third authorization tickets.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first authorization ticket and the second authorization ticket are based on a time.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the time is a future time.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the time is the present time.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the time is a past time.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first authorization ticket and the second authorization ticket are based on a security key.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first authorization ticket and the second authorization ticket are based on an identifier for the media file.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first hash and the second hash are further based on a time.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the time is a future time.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the time is the present time.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the time is a past time.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first hash and the second hash are further based on a security key.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the first hash and the second hash are further based on an identifier for the media file.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[27]] 29 wherein the controlling access is controlling access to multiple media files.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A system for controlling access to a media file, the system comprising one or more processors comprising ~~of claim 27 further comprising~~ a web server, global cache server having local memory, playlist server and media server ~~wherein~~ operative with software to:

generate a first authorization ticket at a first time in response to a request to access the media file;

generate a second authorization ticket at a second time independently of the first authorization ticket and to determine whether to grant access to the media file by comparing the first authorization ticket and the second authorization ticket;

generate a first hash based upon the determination of the second processor; and

generate a second hash;

determine whether to grant access to the media file by comparing the first hash and the second hash; and

provide access to the media file, based on the comparing of the first hash and the second hash;

wherein:

the web server generates a first authorization ticket at a first time in response to a request to access the media file;

the global cache server generates a second authorization ticket at a second time independently of the first authorization ticket and determines whether to grant access to the media file by comparing the first authorization ticket and the second authorization ticket;

the playlist server generates a first hash based upon the determination of the second processor; and

the media server determines whether to grant access to the media file by comparing the first hash and the second hash and provides access to the media file, based on the comparing of the first hash and the second hash.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server are the same server.

36. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server are different servers.

37. (New) A method of claim 6, wherein a single service provider provides the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server.

38. (New) The system of Claim 29, wherein the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server are the same server.

39. (New) The system of Claim 29, wherein the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server are different servers.

40. (New) The system of Claim 29, wherein a single service provider provides the web server, global cache server, playlist server and media server.

41. (New) A method for controlling access to a media file, the method comprising:
generating a first authorization ticket at a first time in response to a request to access the media file from a user;
generating a second authorization ticket at a second time;
determining whether the first and the second authorization tickets match thereby determining whether the user is authorized to access the media file;
generating a first hash at a third time, the first hash based upon the determining whether the authorization tickets match and upon data;
generating a second hash at a fourth time, the second hash based upon the data;
determining whether the first hash and the second hash match, wherein a match of the first and second hashes indicates the user as having been authorized; and
permitting the user access to the media file if the first and second hashes match;
wherein:
the first authorization ticket is generated on a first one or more servers;
the second authorization ticket is generated and the determination whether the first and the second authorization tickets match are performed on the first one or more servers;
the first hash is generated on the first one or more servers; and

the generating of the second hash, the determining whether the first hash and the second hash match, and the permitting the user access to the media file are all performed on a second one or more servers.

42. (New) A method of claim 35, wherein the first one or more servers comprise one server.

43. (New) A method of claim 35, wherein the second one or more servers comprise one server.

44. (New) A method of claim 35, wherein a single service provider provides the first and second one or more servers.